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Pulpit Criticism.

WITH

ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS TO THE BIBLE,

A WEEKLY SHEET,

BY DAVID EDWARDS.

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BAPTIST CHURCH, JARVIS STREET,

The Master.
This institution, which may be regarded as the religious branch of the Bank of Commerce, is under the same presidency as that establishment; the same principles of commerce obtain in each of them; in each *deposits* are eagerly received, and facilities, in the forms of pencils and paper are periodically provided in the religious branch, for duly crediting contributors with their deposits; the President was wont to believe in *interest*, rather than in *principle*, (in the days when the Bible Society was verdant enough to allow him to cherish that belief), and whether interest is allowed on the deposits which are made in this establishment at the present day, we cannot pretend to state; we can answer for "a sweating room" being part of the establishment, in which we have listened to sentiments too shocking to repeat; * we are aware of the existence of a staff of assistant-managers, and *tellers* without number; people-pleasing essays appear to have been overlooked by the protectionists of the Dominion, when drawing up their schedule of prohibited articles, hence we find that these articles of merchandise are not contraband, and perhaps in view of certain kleptomantic weaknesses of which we are conscious, it is as well that these essays are not contraband. The service at this establishment is intended to be polished in the highest degree, and we should say exercises about as much influence on what is termed the heart, as does polished marble; our distinct impression is that any unbiassed person who might listen to the ministrations of the Rev. Dr. Thomas, † the newly-imported Pastor of this Church, would be forcibly reminded by him, of what the listener had been accustomed to see and hear on the stage; it would require a remarkably robust state of faith to believe that the cause of Christianity can be advanced by such a mode of ministration as that adopted by him; but we believe it is calculated to please a class of persons whose religious intelligence has not developed as rapidly as have their possessions.

* These can be seen in No. 49 of the First Series of CRITICISMS.

† Reverend Doctors are becoming so common now o' days, that there would appear to be danger of the title being supposed to involve anything of the nature of attainment.

The first noticeable feature in Dr. Thomas' ministrations may be said to have been his making the correction, "take no *anxious* thought," in reading v. 25 of Matt. vi, and overlooking the far more important consideration of reading v. 27—"Which of you by taking thought can add a span to his life;" this, to our thinking, is too much like "straining *out* a gnat, and swallowing a camel;" neither can we pretend to be in sympathy with a mode of speaking of the Almighty, which finds its expression in such phrases as "the Great Being,—the Majestic Power, etc.," or with "persons being cast down by reason of influences which enter into the heart by reason of bereavement," "lead us into a large place of realization, etc.;" all of which sentences are calculated to remind one of such brief Biblical phrases as "sounding brass," and "tinkling cymbal."

Another feature of the service which was particularly distasteful to the writer, was the "singing or saying" (it is hard to say which) the Lord's prayer by the choir, immediately after the minister had concluded a lengthened and wearisome act of prayer; this was performed in something between a whine and a whisper; it was the first time we had heard anything of the kind, and we trust it will be the last. The sermon was based on Matt. xviii. 2, 3, "And Jesus called a little child to him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say to you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Dr. Thomas omitted to point out that this passage is peculiar to Matthew's gospel, and that the same may be said of the phrase "The kingdom of heaven;" it would probably have been inconvenient to him to dilate on the meaning of that phrase; the leading thoughts of the sermon however were simple and good, albeit the disquisition as a whole was spoilt, for the writer, by the distressing attempts at the æsthetic which accompanied it; a sunflower in the rev. gentleman's button-hole was all that was lacking to make the thing complete; as specimens of the "pictures of silver" which encased the "apples of gold," we learned that the "music" of a Christian home was an "anthem," "its fragrance an oblation," and this, "however imperial the rule" of the parents might be; "on the banks of our pellucid lake, we see the (reflected orbs of) heaven trembling therein, etc.;" when we need an emetic, we may possibly send for Dr. Thomas, that he may administer "the banks of a pellucid lake," under the circumstances, and we shall entertain no doubt as to the result; not a few of the ministers of the day appear to conclude that they are addressing fools or old women; how far they may be correct in this assumption, it is not for us to affirm, but that Albert Hall and kindred institutions should flourish under the circumstances, is not to us surprising.

The continuation of this criticism will appear in the next number.

A REAL TEAR.

We believe a tear of sorrow, unconnected with a leek, escaped the Rev. Dr. Hunter while in the ante-room at the Police Court on the 27th ult., for the rev. gentleman there learned that there was no prospect of the defendant withdrawing a word that he had published in the alleged libel of the 20th ult.

NEW ADVERTISING AGENCY.

Messrs. Hunter, McMichael, Hoskin & Ogden need but to announce the name of their firm to ensure the gushing patronage of the advertising public; each member of the firm is sufficiently judicious to prefer *deeds* to words, and they cannot but commend their aptitude for their vocation, to the public now that they are able proudly to point to their achievements in the interest of PULPIT CRITICISM. "David" has circulated "his thousands," but W. J. & Co.; their "ten thousands." Our indebtedness to the firm may possibly take the form of giving that tenth of our income to the theatre ecclesiastical (of which the Archangel Michael is the manager), at the corner of Gould and Victoria Streets, which its devotees demand; we trust said devotees will not be unduly elated at this prospect of enrichment.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES IN THE RECENT SUIT OF HUNTER *vs.* EDWARDS.

"In reference to the charges made against the Rev. Dr. Hunter in our issue of the 23rd ult., we desire to say that (1) we have not made any of the charges as of our own information, and are not able of our own knowledge to say that they are true; (2) the statement of facts was given us by J. W. Campbell; (3) assuming at the time the truth of those statements, we made reflections upon the Rev. Dr. Hunter which would otherwise not have been made; (4) we made the statement as public journalists, and we had no personal feeling in the matter."

D. MCMICHAEL.

N. G. BIGELOW.

I deem it to be due to my two advocates in the above-named suit to tender my thankful acknowledgement for the professional skill respectively displayed by them in the conduct of the case; to Mr. Heighington, as the first in order, for the adroitness which led him to desire the magistrate to read the article complained of, and which resulted in its circulation to the extent of many thousand additional copies; and next to Mr. Bigelow, who (owing to a technical objection on the part of the Magistrate to Mr. Heighington's pleading) consented to take up the case; in drawing up the articles, Mr. B. has precisely expressed my sentiments, and such persons as may elect to style them "*an apology*," are quite welcome to all the solace they may derive from such a designation; as my own sentiments on that subject have already appeared in the city papers, it is needless to repeat them. I trust that each of the above-named gentlemen may ever be as successful in defending plain-speaking in what I take to be a righteous cause, as they have been in the present instance.

My cordial thanks are no less due to the Magistrate who, in the consciousness that I am not oppressed with the possession of Temperance Colonization stock, kindly assented to the considerate suggestion of my counsel, that the costs of the suit should be remitted.

It may not be amiss to add a word of kindly caution to any learned divine who in future, may contemplate inviting me to partake of the hospitalities of that institution east of the Don; I will therefore suggest that the diet of that establishment is probably bile-producing, and it might be incon-

venient for rev. gentlemen to receive weekly promises from its penitent forms that they shall not be told that they are swindlers and liars any more ; it would be sad if the duty were to devolve on the Editor of PULPIT CRITICISM (which so habitually falls to the lot of the Editor of *Medical Criticism*), to show that the remedy is worse than the disease. Probably it might be safer to take a leaf out of the book of the late lamented Brigham Young, who was wont to keep an angel of the church always on hand, for the despatch of refractory saints of this latter day. Or an alternative course may present itself,—that of such of these learned gentlemen as ostensibly believe in supplication, uniting their orisons for the speedy removal of their inconvenient *episcopos* to realms where the wicked cease from troubling.

DAVID EDWARDS.

On Monday last, I appealed from the *uninformed Mail*, to the *Mail* informed, by despatching the subjoined letter to that journal ; the letter has not been allowed to appear ; it therefore finds a place in this journal as a "rejected address,"—

"As my attention has been called to your strictures on myself, in relation to the recent case of Hunter v. Edwards, allow me to put you in possession of the facts relating thereto:—

"1. I did not know what course my counsel would pursue, until I heard him plead.

"2. Mr. Campbell, after having assented to being defended by the same counsel as myself, employed another barrister without my knowledge, and contrary to the advice of a mutual friend.

"3. The reporters have made me say precisely the reverse of what I did say, and I have neither time nor inclination to correct their 'errors.'

"Toronto, Jan. 29th, 1883.

DAVID EDWARDS."

We ardently hope that *The Evening News* may be rewarded with "the sweet smiles"—to say nothing of the advertisements of all the Methodists of Toronto, on the score of its graphic description of the visage of Dr. Hunter, in connection with an incident, in the trial of the recent case of Hunter vs. Edwards ; that the "Rev." Mr. Livingstone will evince his gratitude for the tender record of his *very* rev. director having been received in court with the unimpaired affection of his Methodist friends, there can be no doubt ; as little need one doubt that both the promoter of the lucrative Manitoban enterprise, and the *Evening News* will remember the abatement in the advertising charges, due to Mr. L.'s connection with the pulpit.

The Rev. Dr. Hunter expressed the subjoined sentiments in the Metropolitan Church, on the 26th of November last ; how far they related to any unsold Manitoban land, we *dare* not venture to affirm:—

"Lo ! on a narrow neck of land,
'Twixt two unbounded seas I stand,
Secure, insensible."

The predictive insensibility of the rev. gentleman has received a signal fulfilment in his recent mode of advertising his frailties.

We trust the time may not be remote when this eminent divine may apply other words, recited by him on that occasion, to himself, and say—

"To thee, against myself, to thee,
A worm of earth, I cry."